



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 7 2006

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

**Project Name:** Grand Island Boulevard Sanitary Sewers  
Grand Island, New York

**Purpose of Project:** This project involves extending sanitary sewers to an existing developed area, where numerous commercial establishments experience septic tank problems due to the age of the systems and poor soil conditions.

**Project Originator:** Town of Grand Island

**Project Location:** Erie County, New York

**Project Description:** The proposed project is for construction of 5,700 linear feet of 8-inch and 10-inch diameter sanitary sewers, a 700 gallon-per-minute pump station, and 1,200 linear feet of 8-inch force main, and upgrading an existing wastewater pump station to enable it to accept wastewater from these new sewers.

**Estimated Eligible Project Costs:** \$ 800,000

**EPA Grant:** \$ 241,100

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document and other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of the EPA Region 2 and the Town of Grand Island, New York, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Steinberg  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

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## Environmental Assessment

### I. Project Identification: Grand Island Boulevard Sanitary Sewers

Name and Address of Applicant: Town of Grand Island  
2255 Baseline Road  
Grand Island, New York 14072

Project Location: Town of Grand Island  
Erie County, New York

### II. Description of Facility Planning Area:

The planning area for this project, Grand Island Boulevard in Sanitary Sewer District No. 5, is located in the southeast portion of the Town of Grand Island, New York (Figure 1). Grand Island is a 27 square mile island in the upper Niagara River. It lies north of the City of Buffalo, west of the Tonawandas, and south of Niagara Falls. To the west is the international border and Canada. Grand Island Boulevard is located just off and roughly parallel to Interstate I-190, which is one of the main tourist routes to Niagara Falls.

Grand Island Sewer District No. 5, which comprises approximately 300 acres, was established in 1987. However, only a very small portion of the District is presently serviced by sanitary sewers.

### III. Purpose and Need for Project:

Grand Island Boulevard is zoned for business and commercial use. The area presently relies on individual subsurface disposal systems, primarily septic tanks and tile fields, to handle the disposal of sewage from approximately 30 commercial establishments. However, due to the poorly suited soils in the area, these systems function poorly. Although the project is designed to service existing development, the lack of public sewers has also made additional development in the area very difficult to implement.

Consequently, the Town sees the lack of sewers as the reason for limited business growth in this area and the Erie County Health Department considers providing the area with sanitary sewers to be a very high priority.

### IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan:

The focus of this environmental assessment, the Grand Island Boulevard Sewer Project, involves installation of approximately 5,700 linear feet of 8 and 10 inch diameter sanitary collector sewers, together with a 700 gallon-per-minute pump station and 1,200 linear feet of 8 inch diameter force main (Figure 2), and upgrading an existing pump station to enable it to accept wastewater flows from the Grand Island Boulevard area. Once the collector sewer system is completed, wastewater will be conveyed to the Town of Grand Island's existing Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal in accordance with federal and state wastewater treatment requirements.

#### Project Costs:



Estimated Eligible Project Costs.....	\$ 800,000
Projected EPA Grant Amount.....	\$ 241,100



# NEW YORK STATE



## Legend

-  State Boundaries
-  County Polygons

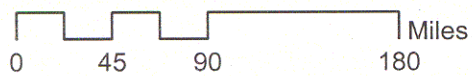
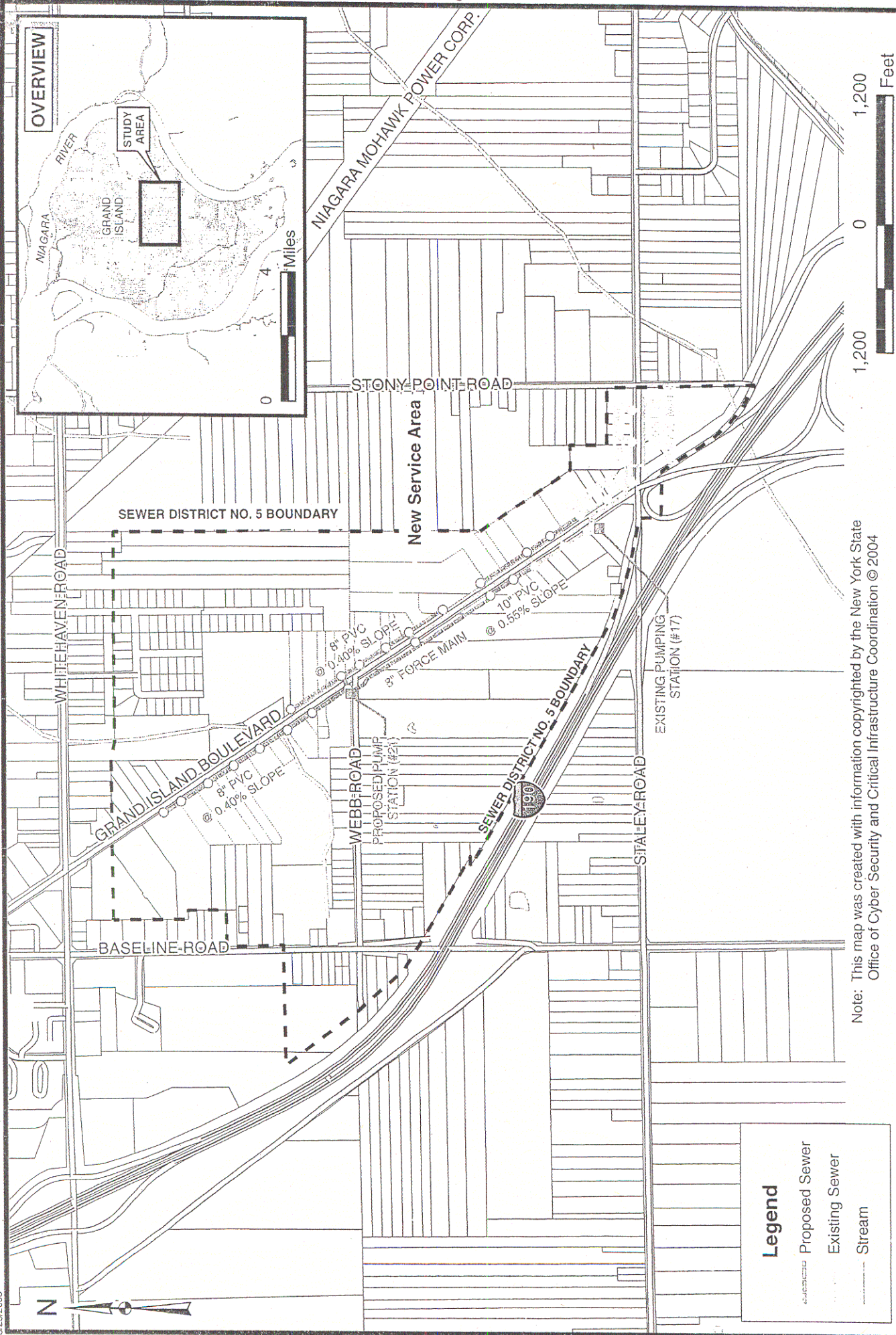


FIG. 1



Note: This map was created with information copyrighted by the New York State  
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DISTRICT NO. 5 PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS  
TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND

FIG. 2

URS



## V. Evaluation of Alternatives:

### A. No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the area would continue to rely on inadequate/failing individual on-site wastewater disposal systems, potentially resulting in health hazards from inadequately treated sewage. The Town and/or individual residents could be subject to fines and/or legal action to correct these problems. This alternative was rejected because it fails to achieve water quality and public health goals.

### B. Replacement of Individual Septic Tank Systems

This alternative would involve installing a new septic tank and an acceptable leach field on each property that currently has an inadequate on-site system. This alternative was rejected due to the poor soils, the high cost associated with replacing multiple systems, and the lack of available capacity to support any new development.

### C. Construction of Sanitary Collector Sewers (Selected Plan)

This is the selected alternative described in the project description above. It was selected as the most economical, environmentally sound, and implementable means to achieve water quality, land use, and public health goals.

## VI. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan/Mitigation Measures

### A. Water Quality

Eliminating ground water recharge from on-site septic systems may cause minor localized reductions of ground water levels. This is not expected to endanger long-term regional ground water supplies, and will be offset by an improvement in groundwater quality resulting from removal of pollutants associated with poor quality on-site system effluent.

During construction of the project, no sediment or silt-laden water shall be discharged into any stream channel, wetland, or storm sewer. Effective measures shall be implemented to minimize any potential adverse impacts of storm water runoff during construction of the project. Thus, water quality will be maintained as a result of sedimentation and erosion control practices.

### B. Air Quality

The project area is located within the Niagara Frontier Air Quality Control Region of New York State. The area is presently in attainment for all the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, except for the 8-hour standard, for which the entire Buffalo-Niagara Falls metropolitan area is non-attainment. Nevertheless, no significant long-term adverse impacts on air quality are expected as a result of this project. The project will, however, eliminate odors from existing malfunctioning on-site septic systems.

There will be some short-term impacts on air quality as a result of construction. These include vehicular emissions from construction equipment and dust generated by earth-moving operations. These impacts will be temporary and localized, however, and can be minimized by requiring proper operation and maintenance of

construction equipment, and by sweeping and wetting the construction area to control dust. Thus, the project will not have a significant adverse impact on air quality.

C. Noise

During construction there will be increased noise levels in the vicinity of construction activities. This effect will be temporary and localized, and will be minimized by requiring machinery to be equipped with proper mufflers and by limiting construction operations to normal work hours.

D. Natural Resources

No impacts to natural resources are anticipated, because most of the proposed project will be constructed within existing roadways and grassed lawns. Areas of grass and bare soil along roadways will be reseeded following construction.

E. Cultural Resources

Based on the results of a cultural resources survey prepared for the project by the Town of Grand Island, the proposed project will have no effect on any significant cultural resources.

F. Environmentally Critical Areas

The proposed project will not result in any direct or indirect adverse impacts to any wetlands, 100-year floodplain, important farmland, aquifer and/or well head protection area, designated coastal zone, wild and scenic river, or endangered/threatened species.

G. Growth

The availability of sanitary sewers could be an inducement to commercial development along Grand Island Boulevard. The amount of new development, however, is limited by the existing configuration of available lots, local zoning, and the capacity limitations of the wastewater collection and conveyance systems. Further, the project will not be providing sewer service to undeveloped parcels except in cases where it is necessary for the sewer line to cross an undeveloped parcel to provide service for a neighboring developed parcel.

There are a few National Wetlands Inventory wetlands and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) designated wetlands present within the sewer district boundaries. The proposed project is not expected to adversely affect these wetlands because none of them are within the construction right-of-way, and future development in these areas would require federal and/or state wetlands jurisdictional determinations and issuance of appropriate wetland permits from the NYSDEC and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Consequently, no large scale wetlands-related development is expected to result from the presence of sanitary sewers.

H. Traffic

The project is being constructed primarily to serve the needs of existing buildings and commercial establishments by providing adequate wastewater disposal facilities to



parcels with existing structures on them. As a result, the presence of new sanitary sewers is not expected to result in any significant increase in traffic in the area.

#### I. Environmental Justice

EPA Region 2's Environmental Justice (EJ) guidance contains criteria for identifying potential EJ communities, based on minority populations and income levels. The planning area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area. Thus, there are no EJ issues associated with the project.

### VII. Coordination of Environmental Review

#### A. Public Participation Program

The public was involved in the decision making process for this project under the requirements of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Town issued an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the SEQRA, made it available to the public and solicited comments on it, and conducted a public hearing prior to formation of the Sewer District in October 1987. In 1996, also pursuant to SEQRA, the Town prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form on the current project and determined that it would not significantly affect the environment. Also in the 1990s, the Town held several informational meetings. The public was concerned about the average annual cost. Without the EPA grant, the estimated annual cost per household would be \$2,347. By using the EPA grant, this estimated cost decreases to \$1,205. More recently, after completing its environmental review of the project, the Town issued a Negative Declaration on April 4, 2005, pursuant to the SEQRA.

#### B. Federal, State, and Local Agencies Notified and/or Consulted by the Town

- Erie County Health Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - New York Natural Heritage Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cortland, New York
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Tonawanda Band of Senecas
- Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force

#### C. Reference Documents

- Town of Grand Island - Environmental Information Document for the Grand Island Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Construction - August 2004
- Letter from Mr. Thomas Casey, Erie County Department of Health, February 3, 2005
- Letter from Mr. John Whitney for Town of Grand Island to Mr. John Mello, USEPA Region 2 - April 4, 2005
- Phase 1 Cultural Resources Investigation for the Proposed Grand Island Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Construction, Panamerican Consultants, Inc. - August 2005
- Letter from Mr. Brian Shemancik, URS Consultants, to Mr. John Whitney, Town Engineer - September 1, 2005